

(19)



Europäisches Patentamt

European Patent Office

Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 462 349 A1

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
29.09.2004 Bulletin 2004/40

(51) Int Cl.7: B62H 5/20, G06K 19/04,
G07C 5/08, G06K 19/07

(21) Application number: 04005604.6

(22) Date of filing: 09.03.2004

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR
HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PL PT RO SE SI SK TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK

(72) Inventor: Yamaguchi, Toshio
Wako-shi Saitama (JP)

(74) Representative: Liska, Horst, Dr.-Ing. et al
Weickmann & Weickmann
Patentanwälte
Postfach 860 820
81635 München (DE)

(30) Priority: 19.03.2003 JP 2003075587

(71) Applicant: HONDA MOTOR CO., Ltd.
Tokyo (JP)

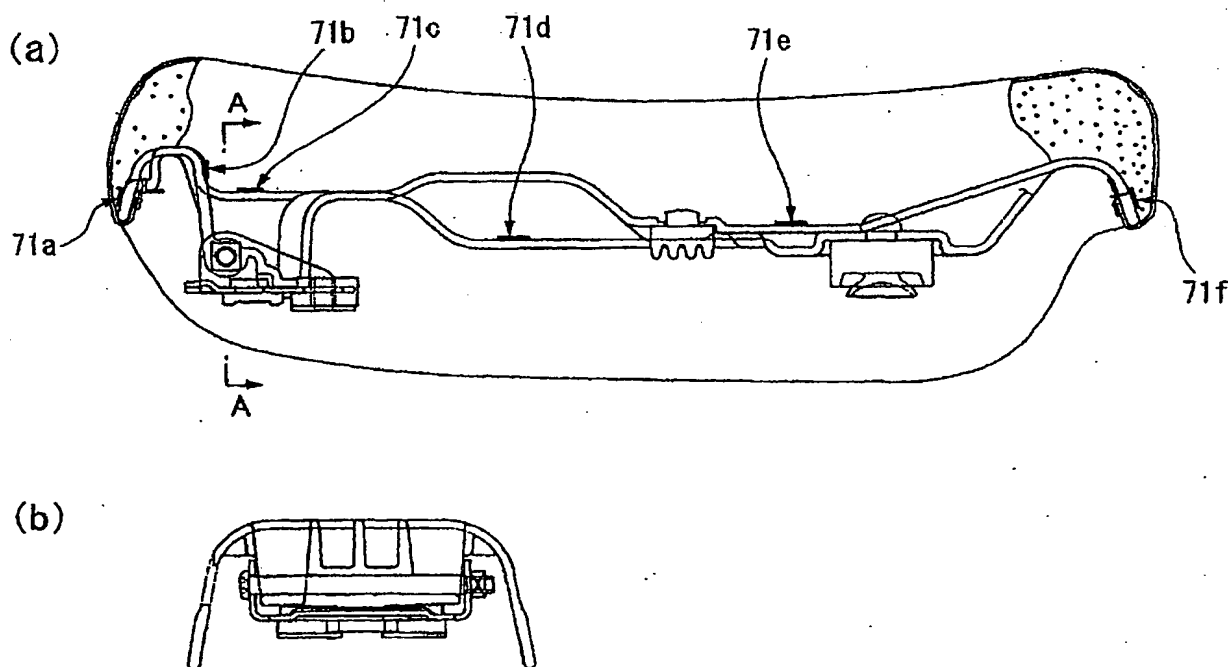
(54) Vehicle tag

(57) Object: To provide a vehicle in which information of RFID is easily read and written by attaching a tag at a position where electromagnetic waves are.

Constitution: In a vehicle including a tag (71a-71f) mounted, the tag (71a-71f) including a recording medium in which identification information for identifying a vehicle is registered, the tag (71a-71f) is attached inside a resin member. Particularly, the tag (71a-71f) is attached inside a vehicle seat composed of a resin member. Furthermore, a tag (71a-71f) is attached as described above in a saddle-type vehicle.

um in which identification information for identifying a vehicle is registered, the tag (71a-71f) is attached inside a resin member. Particularly, the tag (71a-71f) is attached inside a vehicle seat composed of a resin member. Furthermore, a tag (71a-71f) is attached as described above in a saddle-type vehicle.

FIG. 3



Description

[0001] The present invention relates to an article management method for managing an article, especially transportation equipment such as an automobile, a motorcycle, a ship, and an airplane over the lifecycle thereof and relates to a system therefor. Specifically, the present invention relates to a manner of attaching a tag in the same system.

[0002] A technique of managing an article by use of a RFID (Radio Frequency IDentification) has been widely used gradually. This is a technique of managing where each article is stocked and the like by using computers as follows. The RFID (also called an IC tag, a radio tag, or an electronic tag) is attached to an article or a packing material thereof, and information for identifying a type of the article or the individual article is read from the RFID in a distribution process of the article and the like. Herein, the RFID is a small tag which includes an IC (Integrated Circuit) and means for transmitting/receiving radio signals embedded.

[0003] Moreover, the Patent Document 1 discloses a technology of a system which enables an article such as a vehicle to be managed from production to disposal in the following manner. The RFID (tag) is kept fixed to the article from production to disposal thereof, and information which is specific to the article and stored in an IC within the RFID is designed to be read by a computer. In this system, any one of inventory management, delivery management, distribution management, maintenance management, and customer management is included from production to disposal. This Patent Document 1 discloses a technology of fixing the RFID to a chassis frame made of sheet steel (FIGS. 2 and 3, pl. 0007), an electromagnetic shielding board which electromagnetically shields an antenna of the RFID from the chassis frame made of sheet steel (FIG. 2, pl. 0009), and a technology of fixing the RFID to a side surface of the chassis frame and a bottom surface or a bumper of a monocoque body (FIG. 5, pl. 0020).

Patent Document 1:

Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No.
2002-169858

[0004] In the case where the RFIC was fixed to the chassis frame of a vehicle using the conventional technology as described above, since the entire chassis frame was covered with the vehicle body made of metal, read/write signals (electromagnetic waves) for the RFID were blocked by a vehicle body. Therefore, to read/write information from/to the RFID, it was required to get under the body and bring a RFID reader/writer close to the chassis, which was very inconvenient.

[0005] The present invention is to solve the aforementioned problems, and an object of the present invention is to provide a vehicle which includes a tag attached at

a position around which there is no material blocking electromagnetic waves and facilitates reading and writing information of the RFID.

[0006] In order to solve the above-described problem, in a vehicle including a tag mounted therein, the tag including a recording medium in which identification information for identifying a vehicle is registered, the present invention is characterized in that the tag is attached inside a resin member.

[0007] With the above configuration, the read/write signals (electromagnetic waves) for the tag can be transmitted through the resin member.

[0008] Moreover, in the vehicle according to the present invention, the tag is attached inside a vehicle seat composed of a resin member.

[0009] Furthermore, in the vehicle according to any one of claims 1 and 2, the vehicle is a saddle-type vehicle.

[0010] In the saddle-type vehicle, each section of the vehicle body is exposed to the exterior space.

[0011] Hereinafter, a description will be given of one embodiment of the present invention with reference to the drawings, in which:

FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a vehicle management system according to one embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a schematic view showing rough places to which an RFID is attached in a vehicle (motorcycle) in the embodiment.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of a seat showing the places to which the RFID is attached in more detail in the embodiment.

FIG. 4 is a schematic view showing an example of a face of the vehicle registration certificate in the embodiment.

FIG. 5 is a schematic view showing a configuration of data stored in a memory within the RFID in this embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a schematic view showing a data structure of owner data included in a vehicle information database in the embodiment.

FIG. 7 is a schematic view showing a data structure of part configuration data included in the vehicle information database in the embodiment.

FIG. 8 is a schematic view showing a data structure of vehicle history data included in the vehicle information database in the embodiment.

FIG. 9 is a schematic view showing a data structure of an outline of manifest data included in the vehicle information database in the embodiment.

FIG. 10 is a schematic view showing a list of functions included in a controller of a vehicle information management server in the embodiment.

FIG. 11 is a schematic view showing processing and a data flow in disposal/recycling functions in the embodiment.

[0012] FIG. 1 is a block diagram showing a configuration of a vehicle management system according to the embodiment. In FIG. 1, the reference numeral 10 denotes a vehicle information management server. This vehicle information management server 10 includes a controller 101 (identifying means, means for outputting information, means for storing information for identifying a target vehicle, comparing means, means for extracting owner information, manifest issuing means, and means for outputting dumped article information) and a vehicle information database 102 (means for storing article information, means for storing part configuration information, means for storing owner information, and means for storing waste treatment information). Moreover, the reference numeral 20 denotes terminals provided for vehicle manufacturing plants, vehicle dealers, vehicle repair shops, filling stations, disposal service providers, customs offices, and houses of vehicle users. Note that an RFID reader/writer (means for reading tag information) is connected to each terminal 20 if necessary, and it is allowed to easily read and write information of a memory within the RFID provided for a vehicle or the RFID embedded in a vehicle registration certificate. Note that the disposal service providers include waste generators which discharge wastes, waste collectors/transporters which collect and transport the discharged wastes, intermediate treatment companies which perform intermediate treatment for wastes, final disposal companies which perform final disposal after the intermediate treatment, and the like. The reference numeral 21 denotes, for example, a portable terminal owned by a vehicle user. The reference numeral 30 denotes a server in a vehicle sale website which is provided for selling vehicles by using a so-called web interface via a communication network.

[0013] The reference numeral 80 denotes a communication network. The vehicle information management server 10, the terminals 20, the portable terminal 21, and the server 30 in the vehicle sale website can communicate with each other via this communication network 80. Note that the portable terminal 21 is allowed to be connected to the communication network 80 via a mobile phone network 81. Herein, the mobile phone network 81 and the communication network 80 are connected to each other via a not-shown gateway device or the like.

[0014] In the vehicle information management server 10, the vehicle information database 102 holds management information in terms of each vehicle over the entire lifecycle from a stage when the vehicle is shipped from the plant to a stage when the vehicle is disposed of. Moreover, as described later, the controller 101 refers to data stored in the vehicle information database 102 and writes data in the vehicle information database 102 while exchanging data with the terminals 20, the portable terminal 21, the vehicle sale website server 30, and the like.

[0015] Note that the vehicle information management server 10, the terminals 20, and the vehicle sale website

server 30 are implemented by using computers. Moreover, a portable telephone terminal (mobile phone terminal or PHS (Personal Handyphone System, trademark) terminal), a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant), or the like is used as the portable terminal 21. Each of these devices is provided with a CPU (Central Processing Unit) inside. Each process of processing conducted by each of these devices is stored in a computer-readable recording medium in the form of a computer program. Each CPU reads and executes the program to perform the above processing. Herein, the computer-readable recording medium is a magnetic disk, a magneto-optical disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD-ROM, a semiconductor memory, or the like. The computer program may be distributed to a computer through a communication line and executed by a CPU provided in the computer which has received the distribution.

[0016] Next, a description will be given of means for identifying individual vehicles in this system. Each vehicle is provided with a RFID which can be identified by a vehicle ID. This RFID 72 includes a semiconductor memory embedded inside, and this semiconductor memory includes both a non-rewritable area and a rewritable area. In this non-rewritable area, at least the vehicle ID for identifying the vehicle is written in advance.

[0017] FIG. 2 is a schematic view schematically showing places to which the RFID is attached in the case where the vehicle is a motorcycle. In FIG. 2, the reference numeral 90 denotes a seat for a person to ride on. The seat is made of a resin member. The aforementioned RFID is designed to be attached inside this seat.

[0018] FIG. 3(a) is a cross-sectional view of the seat in the longitudinal direction. The reference numerals 71a, 71b, 71c, 71d, 71e, and 71f denote examples of a position where the RFID is fixed to in this drawing. The RFID may be attached to any of these positions 71a to 71f. Particularly in the case where the RFID is attached to the position 71a or 71f, the RFID reader/writer can be brought closer to the RFID because the distance between the surface of the seat and the RFID is short. Note that the cross-sectional view of the seat at a section A-A of FIG. 3(a) is FIG. 3(b).

[0019] As shown in FIG. 3(a), the resin member forming the seat has a certain degree of vertical thickness to function as a buffer for the rider. Therefore, when the RFID is attached to the position 71b, 71c, 71d, or 71e, the distance between the RFID and the seat surface is comparatively long. On the contrary, when the RFID is attached to the front or rear part such as the positions 71a or 71f within the seat like, the distance to the front or rear of the seat surface is comparatively short, respectively. Therefore, when the distance that read/write signals (electromagnetic waves) for the RFID travel over is comparatively short, the RFID is provided at the position whose distance to the seat surface is relatively short, for example the positions 71a or 71f. This allows the reader to be brought closer to the RFID, thus facili-

tating reading and writing.

[0020] Note that although FIG. 2 and FIGS. 3(a) and 3(b) show the attachment positions of the RFID in the case of the motorcycle (the same is true in a motorized bicycle), the RFID can be provided inside the seat in saddle type vehicles such as bicycles, personal water crafts (PWC), and all terrain vehicles in addition to the motorcycle. Since the seat is made of the resin member transmitting electromagnetic waves, attaching the RFID inside the seat as described above is advantageous for reading and writing information, which is stored in the RFID, by using electromagnetic waves. Normally, the saddle type vehicle does not include a metallic roof covering above the seat and the like. Therefore, attaching the RFID inside the seat is convenient because the RFID reader/writer can be installed, for example, over the position where vehicles stop and the like in the filling stations, the repair shops, the road, and the like. Moreover, while the RFID is designed to be fixed to the vehicle from production to disposal of the vehicle, there is an advantage that providing the RFID inside the seat causes the RFID not to be removed easily.

[0021] Note that in the case of vehicles including a metallic roof such as cars, buses, and trucks, the RFID is attached inside the seat, and information of the RFID is read or written by bringing a handy reader/writer inside the vehicle. Alternatively, the RFID is attached near a front or rear window of a car. For example, the RFID may be attached to a dashboard part, and reading and writing for the RFID may be performed from the upper outside of the vehicle and the like. Moreover, the RFID may be attached inside the resin member forming the dashboard part.

[0022] Next, the vehicle registration certificate used in this system will be described. FIG. 4 is a schematic view showing an example of a face of the vehicle registration certificate. In this drawing, a vehicle registration certificate 50 is a certificate issued for each vehicle. As shown in the drawing, on the face of the vehicle registration certificate, a type, a model year (displayed as "model 2003"), a serial number, and a manufacturer's name of a vehicle of interest are described, and a photograph of the vehicle is printed or attached. Moreover, the reference numeral 72 denotes a RFID embedded in the vehicle registration certificate 50. The RFID 72 includes a semiconductor memory embedded therein, and this semiconductor memory includes both a non-rewritable area and a rewritable area.

[0023] Note that this vehicle registration certificate is assumed to be issued by a manufacturer which manufactures the vehicle, a public institution which manages vehicle registration, or the like. Moreover, this vehicle registration certificate is as large as a credit card having a size of, for example, 5.3 centimeters high by 8.5 centimeters wide, and the material thereof is plastic or the like.

[0024] Next, a description will be given of information held by the RFID provided in the vehicle and the RFID

72 embedded in the vehicle registration certificate 50. FIG. 5 is a schematic view showing a configuration of data stored in the memories within these RFIDs. As shown in the drawing, each memory includes a non-rewritable area and a rewritable area. The non-rewritable area is inhibited from being rewritten by using a read-only-memory (ROM). Alternatively, a control is made so that the non-rewritable area is not be rewritten with a control function that the RFIDs include.

[0025] The non-rewritable area stores a tag type code and the vehicle ID, and further includes a spare area. The tag type code is code information for discriminating whether the RFID is the RFID provided in the vehicle or the RFID provided in the vehicle registration certificate. The vehicle ID is code information for individually identifying the vehicle.

[0026] Moreover, the rewritable area stores owner data, part configuration data, vehicle history data, and manifest issue data, and further includes a spare area. In terms of the owner data, part configuration data, vehicle history data, and manifest issue data, the same information is held and managed in the vehicle information database 102 as described later. In this system, the vehicle management server 10 and the terminals 20 can communicate with each other via the communication network 80. Therefore, data (owner data, part configuration data, vehicle history data, and manifest issue data) stored in the vehicle information database 102 and data (owner data, part configuration data, vehicle history data, and manifest issue data) stored in the RFIDs are synchronously updated properly when needed. Moreover, because the storage capacities of the RFIDs are limited, the vehicle information database 102 may be designed to hold a full set of each of these data sets, and each RFID is designed to hold only a subset of each of these data sets.

[0027] Next, a description will be given of each data set held by the vehicle information database 102 with reference to FIGS. 6 to 9. Part of or the entire data shown in FIGS. 6 to 9 is held also in the RFID side on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis.

[0028] FIG. 6 is a schematic view showing the data structure of the owner data included in the vehicle information database. As shown in the drawing, the owner data includes the owner information associated with a vehicle ID. The owner information is information such as the name, date of birth, address, and the like of an owner.

[0029] FIG. 7 is a schematic view showing the data structure of part configuration data included in the vehicle information database. As an example shown in the drawing, the part configuration data holds information on the part configuration on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis (in terms of each vehicle ID) as data having a tree structure. The reference numerals N1 to N7 denote nodes in this tree structure. The node N1 corresponds to a vehicle and includes data items such as the vehicle ID and the registration date of the vehicle. This vehicle is com-

posed of a part 01, a part 02, apart03, and so on. Pieces of information on these parts are stored in the node N2, node N6, and node N7, respectively. Moreover, the parts have a hierarchical structure. For example, the part 01 is further composed of a part 01-01, a part 01-02, a part 01-03, and so on, and pieces of information on these parts are stored in the node N3, node N4, and node N5, respectively. Each of the nodes N2 to N7 includes data items such as a part name indicating a name of the part, a part code for identifying the type of the part, a part serial number assigned to each individual vehicle, a part lot number indicating a lot in manufacturing the part, a part manufactured date indicating the date when the part is manufactured, a part attachment date indicating the date when the part is attached to the vehicle or the date when the part is attached to the upper part, a part attachment reason (event, for example, such as "new vehicle production" and "replacement for repair") indicating a reason for attaching the part.

[0030] Note that FIG. 7 exemplifies the case where the number of part hierarchies is two. However, there may be any number of hierarchies.

[0031] FIG. 8 is a schematic view showing the data structure of the vehicle history data included in the vehicle information database. As the example shown in the drawing, the vehicle history data holds history information on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis (in terms of each vehicle ID) and includes at least data items of a date, history summary, and details. Values of the item of history summary are, for example, "new vehicle production", "owner registration", "owner change", "filling", "repair", "unregistration", "manifest issue", and the like. In terms of these pieces of history information, information is generated in the terminals 20 each time the respective events occur. The information is written in the RFID provided in the vehicle or the RFID of the vehicle registration certificate when needed and transmitted from the terminals 20 to the controller 101. The controller 101 performs writing in the database based on the transmitted information.

[0032] Note that when the history summary is "new vehicle production", a manufacturer name and a plant name are written as detailed data. When the history summary is "owner registration", the name and address of an owner and the like are written as detailed data. When the history summary is "filling", information specifying a filling station, a quantity of fuel supplied, odometer information at the time of filling, and the like are written as detailed data. When the history summary is "repair", a repair shop name, information of repair details, and the like is written as the detailed data. When the history summary is "owner change", the name and address of a new owner and the like are written as the detailed data.

[0033] FIG. 9 schematically shows manifest issue data included in the vehicle information database. As an example shown in the drawing, the manifest issue data includes data items such as a manifest issued flag, a

waste treatment code, waste generator information, collector/transporter information, intermediate treatment company information, final disposal company information, public keys of the waste generator, the collector/transporter, the intermediate treatment company, and the final disposal company on a vehicle-by-vehicle basis (in terms of each vehicle ID). The manifest issued flag is information indicating whether a manifest has been already issued. The waste treatment code is information indicating whether or not the manifest is issued in paper or electronic form. Note that a secret key corresponding to each of the public keys is held by a computer of each of the disposal service providers. A plurality of generators, collectors/transporters, or companies (for example, intermediate treatment companies) may be involved in each stage in accordance with processing thereof. In that case, public key information of each of the disposal service providers is held in this manifest issue data.

[0034] FIG. 10 is a schematic view showing a list of functions included by the controller 101 of the vehicle information management server 10. As shown in the drawing, in this embodiment, the controller 101 broadly includes a vehicle lifecycle management functions (a), an arrangement functions (b), and disposal/recycling functions (c).

[0035] In more detail, the vehicle lifecycle management functions include functions of (1) new vehicle registration, (2) new vehicle sale (new registration of owners), (3) import, (4) used vehicle transfer (owner change and registration), (5) export, (6) vehicle unregistration information (waste generator registration), (7) filling, (8) repair, and the like. The arrangement functions include (11) stolen vehicle search, (12) specific vehicle type/part arrangement, and (13) illegally dumped vehicle arrangement and the like. Moreover, the disposal/recycling functions include functions of (21) manifest issue, (22) waste generation management, (23) collection/transportation management, (24) intermediate treatment management, and (25) final disposal management. A brief description will be given of each function below.

(1) The function of new vehicle registration receives the vehicle ID, the part configuration data, and the like of a new vehicle from the terminals 20 of a vehicle manufacturing plant or the like and registers data of the new vehicle in the vehicle information database 102. At this time, information written in the RFID provided in the vehicle and the RFID embedded in the vehicle registration certificate is simultaneously generated.

(2) The function of new vehicle sale (new registration of owners) receives data such as the name and address of an owner from the terminal 20 of a vehicle dealer, the vehicle sale website server 30, or the like and registers the owner data of the vehicle information database 102.

(3) The function of import performs processing the same as that of the function of used car transfer described later in the case of import from countries (areas) managed by this vehicle management system. In the case where a vehicle is imported from a country (area) not managed by this vehicle management system, the function of import registers the owner data and part configuration data of the vehicle as a new vehicle and registers past history information as the vehicle history data. The functions necessary for processing of the import function are received, for example, from the terminals 20 of the customs offices.

(4) The function of used vehicle transfer (owner change and registration) receives data such as the name and address of an owner after transfer from the terminal 20 of a used vehicle dealer or the like, registers data of a new owner in the vehicle information database 102, and adds vehicle history data.

(5) The function of export performs processing the same as that of the aforementioned used car transfer in the case of export to countries (areas) managed by this vehicle management system. In the case of export to other countries (areas), the owner data is updated or deleted, and the export record is added as the vehicle history data. Functions necessary for processing of the export function are received from, for example, the terminals 20 of the customs offices.

(6) The function of vehicle unregistration (waste generator registration) adds information indicating unregistration as the vehicle history data and performs a process to register the waste generator which is a first agency that contracts for waste disposal in the vehicle information database 102.

(7) From the terminals 20 of the filling stations concerning, the function of filling receives data (information of a quantity of fuel supplied, odometer information, filling location information, and the like) filling and performs a process to register the same as the vehicle history data.

(8) The function of repair receives data concerning repair from the terminals 20 of the repair shops and registers the same as the vehicle history data. In the case where part replacement or the like is performed in repair, the part configuration data of the vehicle information database is also updated.

(11) In the case of vehicle theft or the like, the function of stolen article search performs search for a stolen article by the vehicle ID thereof. Information for searching for a stolen article is transmitted to the terminals 20 of the customs offices, repair shops, and filling stations. For example, in a filling station, it is designed to allow the vehicle ID to be read from the RFID provided in a vehicle at the position where the vehicle stops for filling, and to allow the vehicle ID read from the RFID of the vehicle to be compared

to the vehicle ID of the stolen vehicle search information. Moreover, it may be designed to stop filling and notify information in the location of that filling station of the vehicle information management server side when the both match each other as a result of comparison. This makes it relatively easy to know the whereabouts of the stolen vehicle.

(12) For example, in the case where parts of a specific lot come near the end of life, the function of specific vehicle type/part arrangement specifies vehicles including those parts by searching the part configuration data within the vehicle information database 102 and obtains the owner data of the vehicles. This enables information of part replacement and the like to be sent to the owners. Moreover, the vehicle history data is designed to include a history of vehicle inspection, a history of replacement of parts such as tires, a history of maintenance or checking, and the like. This enables information of next vehicle inspection, part replacement, checking and the like to be sent when a predetermined period of time has passed after the last inspection, part replacement, checking, and the like based on the vehicle history data. These pieces of information may be sent to the addresses of the owners by post. Alternatively, it may be designed to hold e-mail addresses as owner data and send information to the e-mail addresses by e-mail. In addition, for example, it may be designed to send information to owners for adding a function to software in a part with control means by software embedded therein other than the case of the end of life of parts.

(13) The function of illegally dumped vehicle management outputs information on vehicles illegally dumped. For example, when a vehicle illegally dumped is found, the vehicle ID is read from the RFID provided in the vehicle using a handy terminal (portable terminal) or the like at the dumping site. The controller 1201 reads the vehicle history data or the owner data of the vehicle of interest from the vehicle information database 102. If the vehicle has been already unregistered and passed to a disposal process, the state of the waste treatment is tracked based on the data written in the vehicle information database 102 by means of the disposal/recycling functions described later.

[0036] Next, a description will be given of the disposal/recycling functions. FIG. 11 is a schematic view showing processing and data flow in the disposal/recycling functions. In FIG. 11, waste generation management, collection/transportation management, intermediate treatment management, and final disposal management are functions included by the controller 101. Note that the processing shown in this drawing is based on the premise that an electronic manifest has been already issued. Specifically, when the process of vehicle unregistration is performed, the process of manifest is-

sue is performed in conjunction therewith, and the manifest (manifest data) as electronic data is recorded in the vehicle information database 102. This manifest data includes a vehicle ID, and the vehicle ID associates the manifest data with the other data within the vehicle information database. Note that the manifest data may be recorded and held in another recoding area within the vehicle management server 10 or in a recording medium (not shown) such as a magnetic disk within another computer instead of being held in the vehicle database 102.

[0037] Hereinafter, a description will be given along the flow in FIG. 11. First, the waste generation management function included by the controller 101 reads the vehicle ID of a vehicle to be disposed of from the vehicle information database 102 and adds the waste generation information (including information on the waste generator) thereto (step S110). Subsequently, the waste generation management function sends information including this vehicle ID and the waste generation information to the terminal 20 of the waste generator via the communication network 80 and asks encryption thereof. The waste generator side encrypts this information with the secret key of the waste generator and returns the same to the waste generation management function of the controller 101. The waste generation management function writes the returned encrypted information in the vehicle information database 102 as the waste generator information and also writes the public key of the waste generator in the vehicle information database 102 (step S111).

[0038] Subsequently, the collection/transportation management function included by the controller 101 reads the waste generator information from the vehicle information database 102 and adds the collection/transportation information (including information on the collector/transporter) thereto (step S120). The collection/transportation management function sends the information after the addition to the terminal 20 of the collector/transporter via the communication network 80 and asks encryption thereof. The collector/transporter side encrypts this information with the secret key of the collector/transporter and returns the same to the collection/transportation function of the controller 101. The collection/transportation function writes the returned encrypted information in the vehicle information database 102 as the collector/transporter information and also writes the public key of the collector/transporter information in the vehicle information database 102 (step S121).

[0039] Subsequently, the intermediate treatment management function included by the controller 101 reads the collector/transporter information from the vehicle information database 102 and adds the intermediate treatment information (including information on the intermediate treatment company) thereto (step S130). The intermediate treatment management function then sends this information after the addition to the terminal 20 of the intermediate treatment company via the com-

munication network 80 and asks encryption thereof. The intermediate treatment company side encrypts this information with the secret key of the intermediate treatment company and returns the same to the intermediate treatment management function of the controller 101. The intermediate treatment management function writes the returned encrypted information in the vehicle information database 102 as the intermediate treatment company information and also writes the public key of the intermediate treatment company in the vehicle information database 102 (step S131).

[0040] Subsequently, the final disposal management function included by the controller 101 reads the intermediate treatment company information from the vehicle information database 102 and adds the final disposal information (including information on the final disposal company) thereto (step S140). The final disposal management function sends this information after the addition to the terminal 20 of the final disposal company via the communication network 80 and asks encryption thereof. The final disposal company side encrypts this information with the secret key of the final disposal company and returns the same to the final disposal management function of the controller 101. The final disposal management function writes the returned encrypted information in the vehicle information database 102 as the final disposal company information and also writes the public key of the final disposal company in the vehicle information database 102 (step S141).

[0041] Managing information on wastes by performing the processing from the step S110 to the step S141 according to each level of the waste treatment as described above enables the information on the state of the disposal treatment to be managed in an integrated fashion. Moreover, the information is encrypted with the secret key of each disposal service provider. Accordingly, the information is surely guaranteed to be information added by the appropriate disposal service provider by decrypting the information with the corresponding public key. It is thus possible to hold information adequate for accurately tracking the processes of the waste treatment in the vehicle information database. In addition, the information on the waste treatment is associated with the vehicle ID of the vehicle of interest, and the vehicle ID corresponds to the vehicle ID which is written in the RFID provided in the vehicle registration certificate or the vehicle itself. This ensures identification of the individual vehicle to be disposed of as a waste.

[0042] Note that the example of FIG. 11 is based on the premise that the processes are sequentially performed in the order of the waste generator, the collector/transporter, the intermediate treatment company, and the final disposal company, but the processes is not necessarily performed in this order. The information of each of the disposal/recycling service providers can be encrypted and added step by step. For example, a single disposal service provider may perform both the collection/transportation and the intermediate treatment to-

gether, or the intermediate treatment may be separated in a plurality of stages performed by a plurality of disposal service providers. Moreover, different treatment companies may be involved according to materials constituting the wastes or the like.

[0043] Each of the vehicle information management server 10, terminals 20, portable terminal 21, vehicle sale website server 30, and the like includes a computer system inside. Each process of processing of the aforementioned vehicle information management is stored in a computer-readable recording medium in the form of a computer program. Each computer reads and executes the program to perform the aforementioned processing. Here, the computer-readable recording medium is a magnetic disk, a magneto-optical disk, a CD-ROM, a DVD-ROM, a semiconductor memory, or the like. The computer program may be distributed to the computer through a communication line and executed by the computer that has received the distribution.

[0044] The embodiment of the present invention has been described above with reference to the drawings, but the concrete constitution is not limited to this embodiment and may include a design and the like without departing from the scope of this invention.

[0045] As described above, according to this present invention, the tag read/write signals (electromagnetic waves) are transmitted through the resin member because the tag (RFID) is attached inside the resin member. Therefore, information of the tag can be easily read and written using the tag reader/writer. Moreover, since the tag is attached inside the vehicle seat composed of a resin member, space within the vehicle seat can be efficiently utilized. In other words, there is an advantage that less design restrictions are newly applied compared to the case where the tag is provided on the chassis frame or the like. Moreover, providing the tag inside the seat is advantageous from perspective of water resistance, ultraviolet resistance, and the like and can prevent the tag from being deteriorated. Furthermore, since the tag is hardly removed, there is an advantage that the tag is unlikely to be removed by vibration or the like or to be stolen.

[0046] Furthermore, when the vehicle is a saddle type vehicle, the seat is exposed to the exterior space. Therefore, there are fewer obstacles to electromagnetic waves, and information of the tag can be easily read and write even from the right above the vehicle.

[0047] Object: To provide a vehicle in which information of RFID is easily read and written by attaching a tag at a position where electromagnetic waves are.

[0048] Constitution: In a vehicle including a tag mounted, the tag including a recording medium in which identification information for identifying a vehicle is registered, the tag is attached inside a resin member. Particularly, the tag is attached inside a vehicle seat composed of a resin member. Furthermore, a tag is attached as described above in a saddle-type vehicle.

FIG. 1

[0049] [Document Name] Drawings

5 10 VEHICLE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVER
102 VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
101 CONTROLLER
21 PORTABLE TERMINAL
10 81 MOBILE PHONE NETWORK
VEHICLE USER
20 TERMINAL
80 COMMUNICATION NETWORK
VEHICLE MANUFACTURING PLANT
15 20 TERMINAL
DEALER
20 TERMINAL
30 VEHICLE SALE WEBSITE SERVER
20 TERMINAL
20 CUSTOMS OFFICE
20 TERMINAL
DISPOSAL SERVICE PROVIDER
20 TERMINAL
FILLING STATION
25 20 TERMINAL
REPAIR SHOP.

FIG. 4

30 **[0050]**
50 VEHICLE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE
TYPE
MODEL
35 SERIAL NUMBER
OO GIKEN INDUSTRY
VEHICLE PHOTO PRINTING POSITION

FIG. 5

40 **[0051]**
STORAGE DATA ARRANGEMENT IN RFID
TAG TYPE CODE
45 VEHICLE ID
SPARE AREA
NON-REWRITABLE AREA
OWNER DATA
PART CONFIGURATION DATA
50 VEHICLE HISTORY DATA
MANIFEST ISSUE DATA
SPARE AREA
55 REWRITABLE AREA

15

EP 1 462 349 A1

16

FIG. 6

[0052]

VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
 OWNER DATA
 VEHICLE ID
 OWNER
 NAME
 DATE OF BIRTH
 ADDRESS

FIG. 7

[0053]

VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
 PART CONFIGURATION DATA
 VEHICLE
 VEHICLE ID
 VEHICLE REGISTRATION DATE
 PART 01
 PART NAME
 PART CODE
 PART SERIAL NUMBER
 PART LOT NUMBER
 PART MANUFACTURED DATE
 PART ATTACHMENT DATE
 PART ATTACHMENT REASON
 NEW VEHICLE PRODUCTION
 PART 01-01
 PART NAME
 PART CODE
 PART 01-02
 PART NAME
 PART CODE
 PART 01-03
 PART NAME
 PART CODE
 PART 02
 PART NAME
 PART CODE
 PART SERIAL NUMBER
 PART LOT NUMBER
 PART MANUFACTURED DATE
 PART ATTACHMENT DATE
 PART ATTACHMENT REASON
 REPLACEMENT FOR REPAIR
 PART 03
 PART NAME
 PART CODE
 PART SERIAL NUMBER
 PART LOT NUMBER
 PART MANUFACTURED DATE
 PART ATTACHMENT DATE
 PART ATTACHMENT REASON
 REPLACEMENT FOR REPAIR

FIG. 8

[0054]

5 VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
 VEHICLE HISTORY DATA
 VEHICLE ID
 DATE
 BRIEF HISTORY
 10 DETAIL
 NEW VEHICLE PRODUCTION
 OO GIKEN INDUSTRY, OO PLANT
 OWNER REGISTRATION
 OWNER NAME, ADDRESS
 15 FILLING
 FILLING STATION, QUANTITY OF FUEL
 FILLING
 FILLING STATION, QUANTITY OF FUEL
 FILLING
 20 FILLING STATION, QUANTITY OF FUEL
 REPAIR
 REPAIR SHOP, REPAIR DETAIL
 FILLING
 FILLING STATION, QUANTITY OF FUEL
 25 OWNER CHANGE
 OWNER NAME, ADDRESS
 UNREGISTRATION
 MANIFEST ISSUE

30 FIG. 9

[0055]

35 VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
 MANIFEST ISSUE DATA
 VEHICLE ID
 MANIFEST ISSUED FLAG
 DISPOSAL TREATMENT CODE
 WASTE GENERATOR INFORMATION
 40 PUBLIC KEY OF WASTE GENERATOR
 COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER INFORMATION
 PUBLIC KEY OF COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER
 INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT COMPANY INFORMATION
 45 PUBLIC KEY OF INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT
 COMPANY
 FINAL DISPOSAL COMPANY INFORMATION
 PUBLIC KEY OF FINAL DISPOSAL COMPANY

50 FIG. 10

[0056]

55 VEHICLE LIFECYCLE MANAGEMENT FUNCTION
 NEW VEHICLE REGISTRATION
 NEW VEHICLE SALE (NEW REGISTRATION OF
 OWNER)

17

EP 1 462 349 A1

18

IMPORT
 USED VEHICLE TRANSFER (CHANGE AND
 REGISTRATION OF OWNER)
 EXPORT
 VEHICLE UNREGISTRATION (WASTE GENERA- 5
 TOR REGISTRATION)
 FILLING
 REPAIR
 ARRANGEMENT FUNCTION
 STOLEN VEHICLE SEARCH 10
 SPECIFIC VEHICLE TYPE/PART ARRANGE-
 MENT
 ILLEGALLY DUMPED VEHICLE MANAGEMENT
 DISPOSAL/RECYCLING FUNCTION
 MANIFEST ISSUE 15
 WASTE GENERATION MANAGEMENT
 COLLECTION/TRANSPORTATION MANAGE-
 MENT
 INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT MANAGEMENT
 FINAL DISPOSAL MANAGEMENT 20

FIG. 11

[0057]

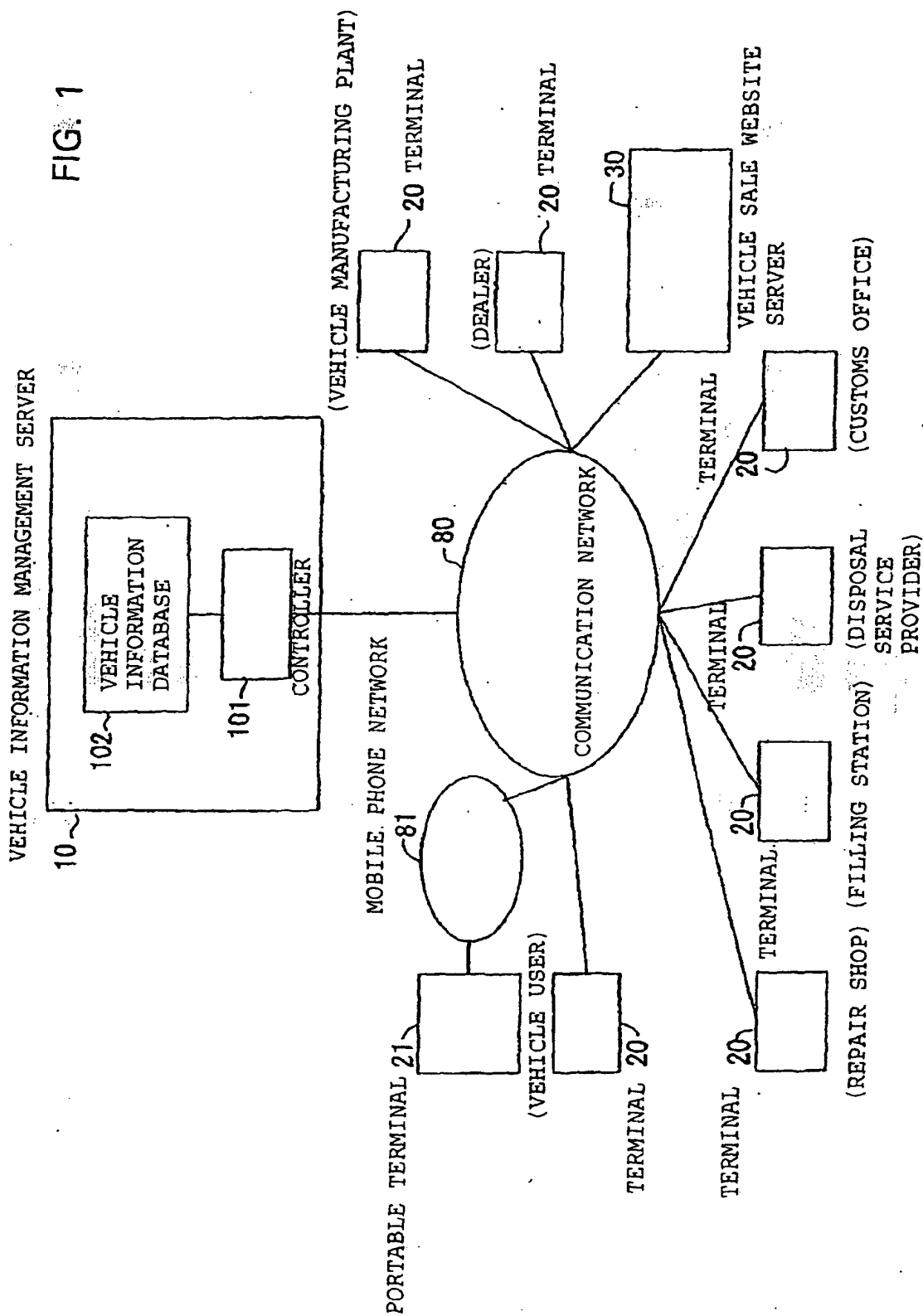
VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
 VEHICLE ID (OR IDENTIFICATION INFORMA-
 TION MANAGED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE
 VEHICLE ID)
 READ
 WASTE GENERATION MANAGEMENT
 ADDITION OF WASTE GENERATION INFORMA-
 TION (INCLUDING INFORMATION ON WASTE
 GENERATOR)
 ENCRYPTION OF INFORMATION WITH SECRET 35
 KEY OF WASTE GENERATOR
 WRITE
 WASTE GENERATOR INFORMATION
 PUBLIC KEY OF WASTE GENERATOR
 READ 40
 COLLECTION/TRANSPORTATION MANAGE-
 MENT
 ADDITION OF COLLECTION/TRANSPORTATION
 INFORMATION (INCLUDING INFORMATION ON
 COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER) 45
 ENCRYPTION WITH SECRET KEY OF COLLEC-
 TOR/TRANSPORTER
 WRITE
 COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER INFORMATION
 PUBLIC KEY OF COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER 50
 READ
 INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT MANAGEMENT
 ADDITION OF INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT IN-
 FORMATION (INCLUDING INFORMATION ON IN-
 TERMEDIATE TREATMENT COMPANY) 55
 ENCRYPTION WITH SECRET KEY OF INTERME-
 DIATE TREATMENT COMPANY
 WRITE

INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT COMPANY INFOR-
 MATION
 PUBLIC KEY OF INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT
 COMPANY
 READ
 FINAL DISPOSAL STAGE
 ADDITION OF FINAL DISPOSAL INFORMATION
 (INCLUDING INFORMATION ON FINAL DISPOS-
 AL COMPANY)
 ENCRYPTION WITH SECRET KEY OF FINAL
 DISPOSAL COMPANY
 WRITE
 FINAL DISPOSAL COMPANY INFORMATION
 PUBLIC KEY OF FINAL DISPOSAL COMPANY

Claims

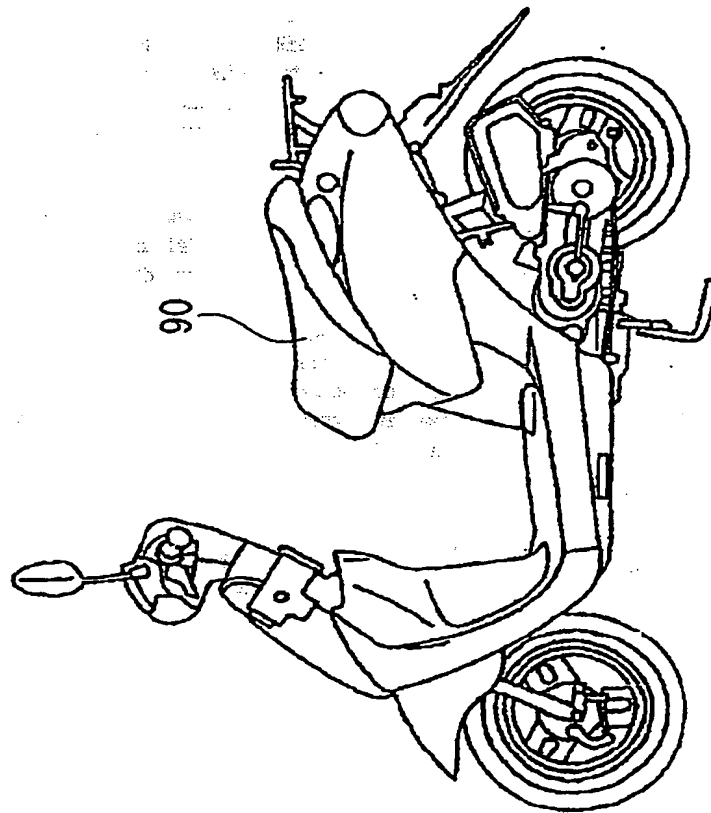
1. A vehicle including a tag mounted therein, the tag (71a - 71f, 72) including a recording medium (102) in which identification information for identifying a vehicle is registered, **characterized in that** the tag (71a - 71f) is attached inside a resin member (90).
2. The vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the tag is attached inside a vehicle seat (90) composed of a resin member.
3. The vehicle according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the vehicle is a saddle-type vehicle.

EP 1 462 349 A1



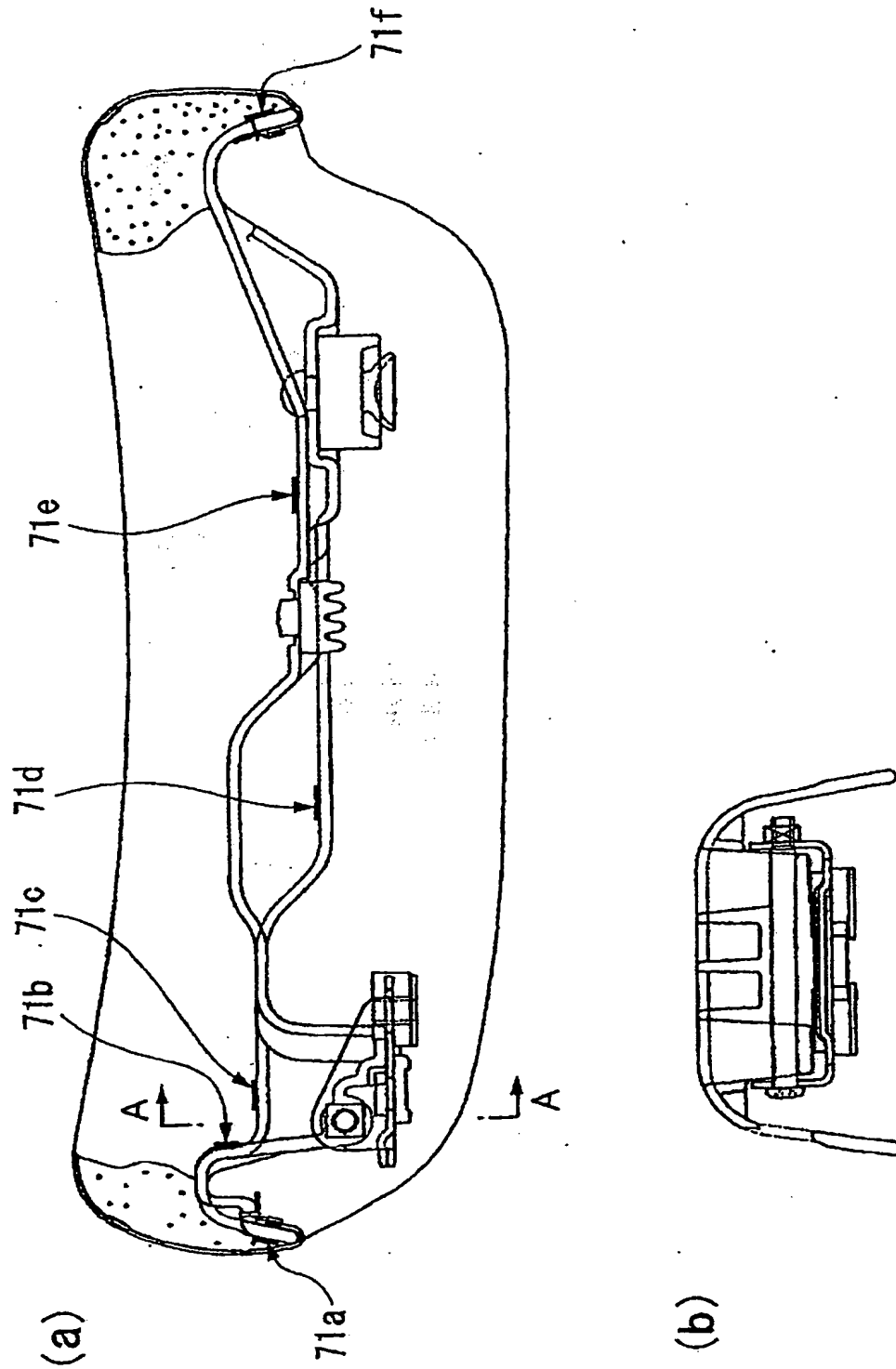
EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 2



EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 3




EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 4

50 VEHICLE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE

TYPE	XXXXXX	VEHICLE PHOTO PRINTING POSITION
MODEL	2003	
SERIAL	XXXXXX	
NUMBER		

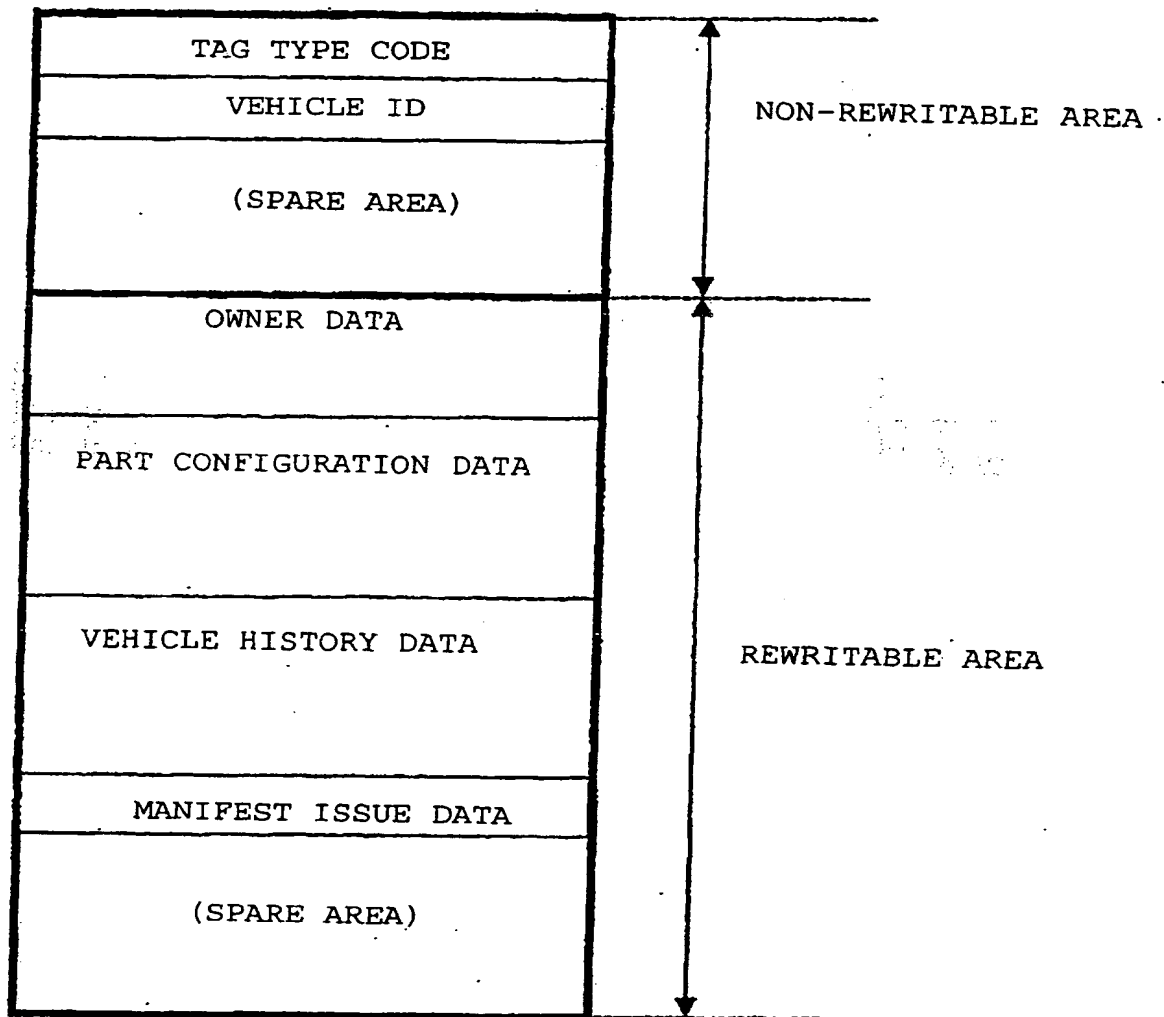
72 OO GIKEN INDUSTRY



EP 1 462 349 A1

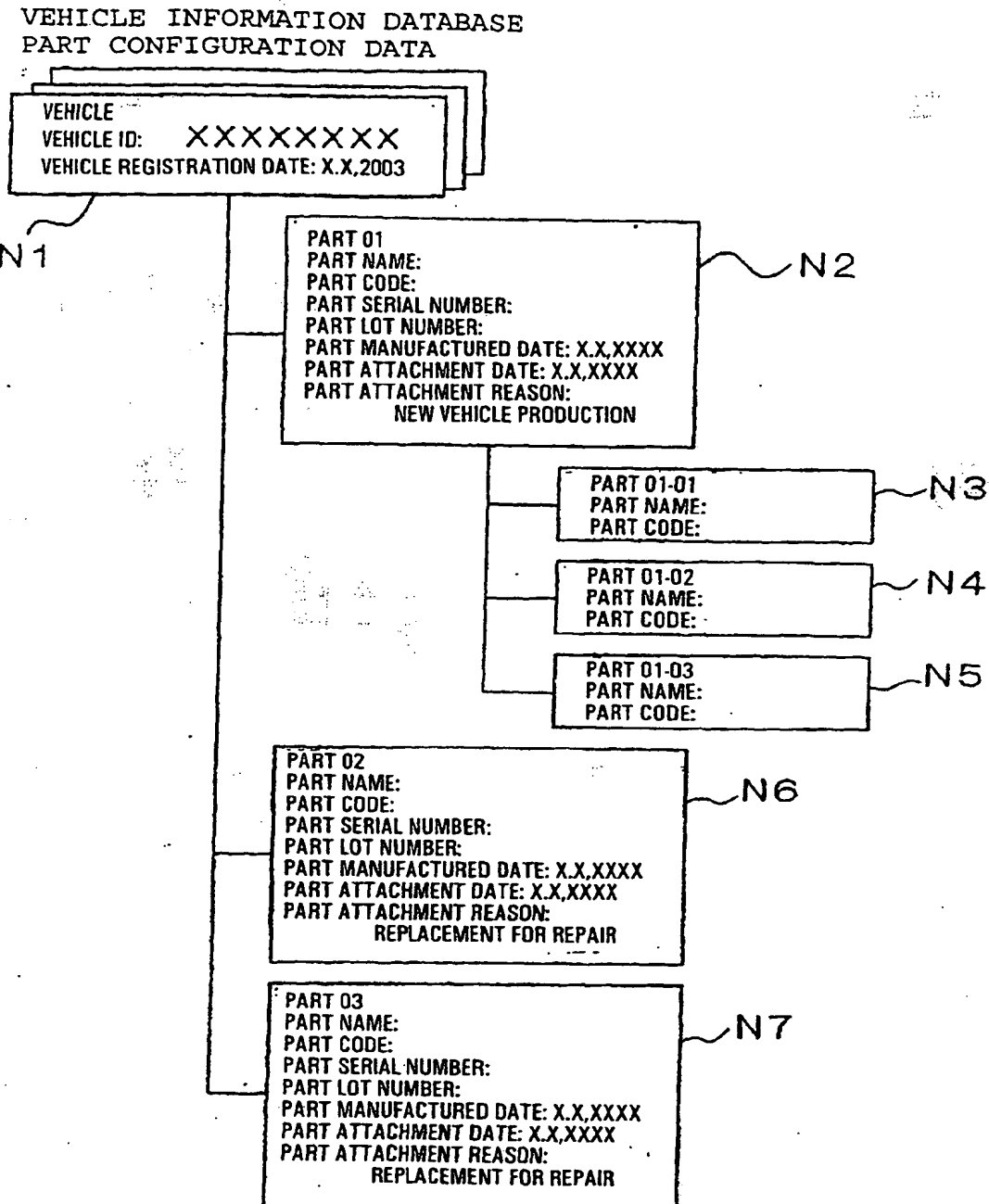
FIG. 5

STORAGE DATA ARRANGEMENT IN RFID



EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 7



EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 8

VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
VEHICLE HISTORY DATA

VEHICLE ID		X X X X X X X X	
DATE	BRIEF HISTORY	DETAIL	
X.X,XXXX	NEW VEHICLE PRODUCTION	00 GIKEN INDUSTRY, ΔΔ PLANT	
X.X,XXXX	OWNER REGISTRATION	OWNER NAME:XXXX, ADDRESS:XXXXXX	
X.X,XXXX	FILLING	FILLING STATION:XXXX, QUANTITY OF FUEL:XX litre, . .	
X.X,XXXX	FILLING	FILLING STATION:XXXX, QUANTITY OF FUEL:XX litre, . .	
X.X,XXXX	FILLING	FILLING STATION:XXXX, QUANTITY OF FUEL:XX litre, . .	
X.X,XXXX	REPAIR	REPAIR SHOP:XXX, REPAIR DETAIL: XXXXXX	
X.X,XXXX	FILLING	FILLING STATION: XXXX, QUANTITY OF FUEL: XX litre; . .	
X.X,XXXX	OWNER CHANGE	OWNER NAME: XXXX, ADDRESS: XXXXXX	
.....	
X.X,XXXX	UNREGISTRATION		
X.X,XXXX	MANIFEST ISSUE		
X.X,XXXX			
X.X,XXXX			
X.X,XXXX			
X.X,XXXX			

EP 1 462 349 A1

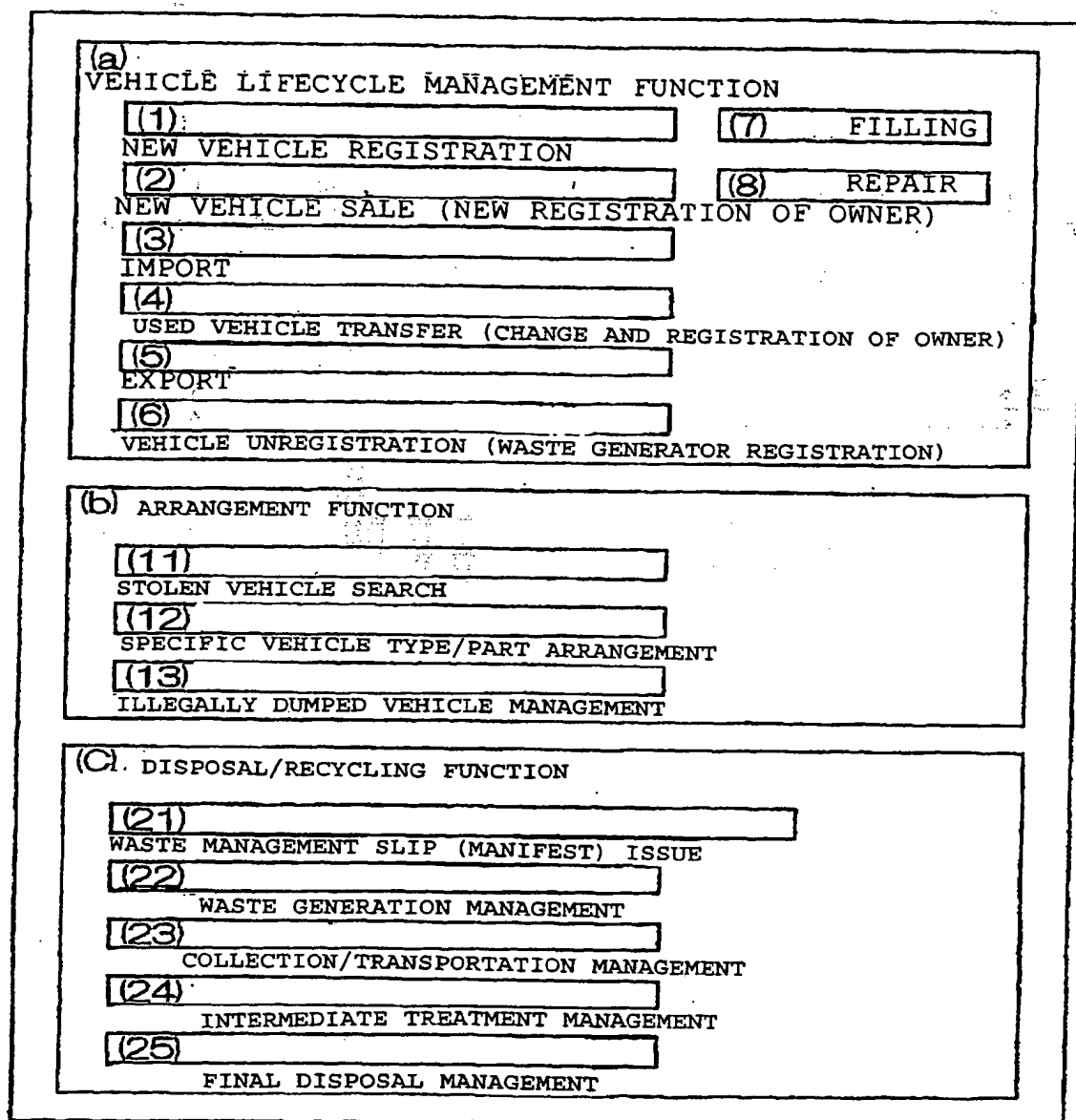
FIG. 9

VEHICLE INFORMATION DATABASE
MANIFEST ISSUE DATA

VEHICLE ID	
MANIFEST ISSUED FLAG	
DISPOSAL TREATMENT CODE	
WASTE GENERATOR INFORMATION	PUBLIC KEY OF WASTE GENERATOR
COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER INFORMATION	PUBLIC KEY OF COLLECTOR/TRANSPORTER
INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT COMPANY INFORMATION	PUBLIC KEY OF INTERMEDIATE TREATMENT COMPANY
FINAL DISPOSAL COMPANY INFORMATION	PUBLIC KEY OF FINAL DISPOSAL COMPANY

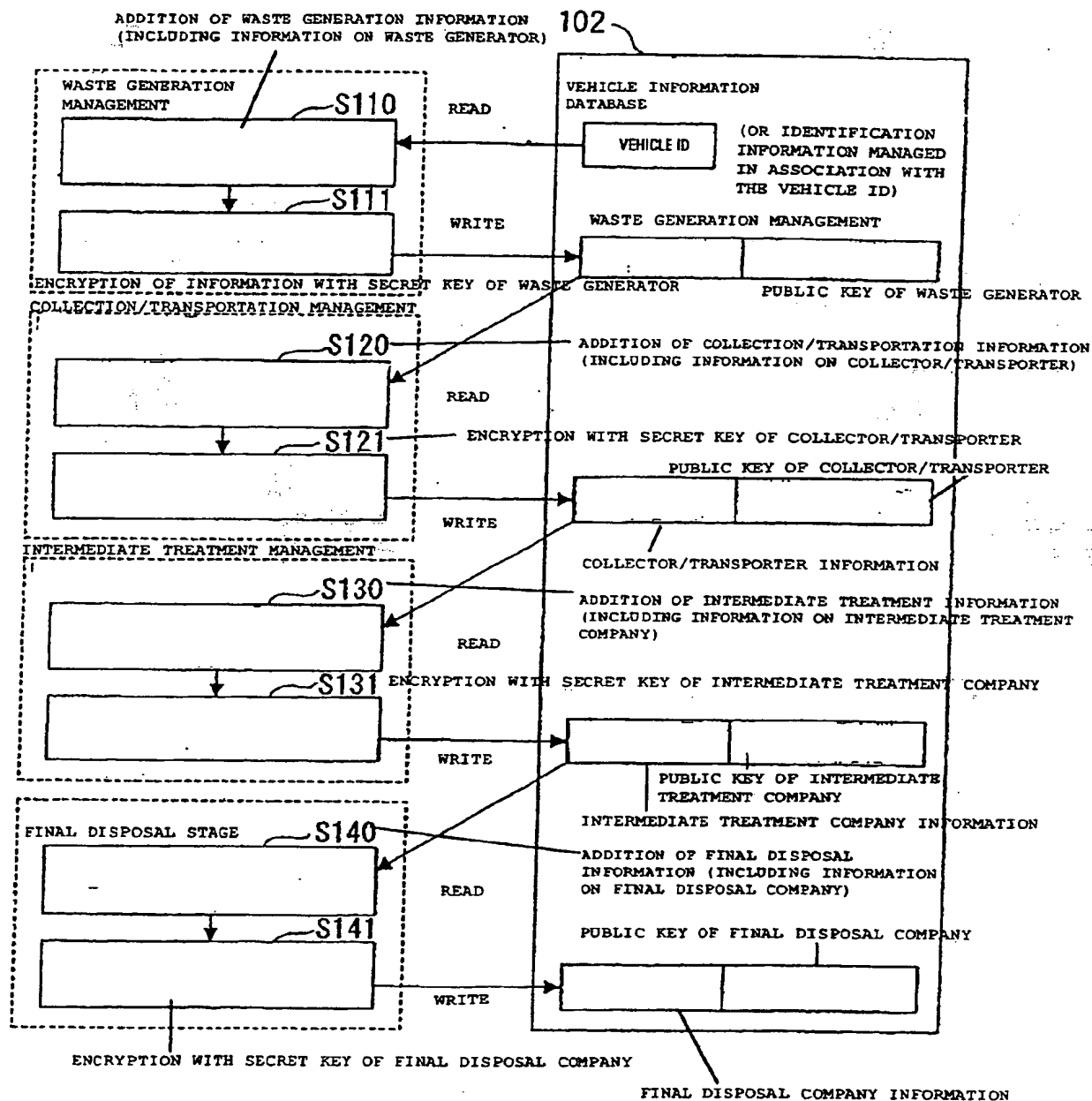
EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 10



EP 1 462 349 A1

FIG. 11



EP 1 462 349 A1



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 04 00 5604

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
X	DE 27 52 954 A (SPITZER HANS JOCHEM) 31 May 1979 (1979-05-31)	1	B62H5/20 G06K19/04 G07C5/08 G06K19/07
Y	* the whole document *	3	
X	US 5 731 957 A (BRENNAN JOHN E) 24 March 1998 (1998-03-24) * column 1, line 7 - line 16 * * column 1, line 58 - column 2, line 11 *	1	
X	DE 196 07 294 A (LAMMERING THOMAS DIPL ING) 28 August 1997 (1997-08-28) * claims *	1	
A	US 2002/113491 A1 (CHAN TZOYAO ET AL) 22 August 2002 (2002-08-22)	1	
Y	* claims *	3	
A	NL 9 101 758 A (NEDAP NV) 17 May 1993 (1993-05-17) * abstract *	1,3	
A	US 6 246 919 B1 (HASSEL JOERG) 12 June 2001 (2001-06-12)		
A	DE 33 13 481 A (DAIMLER BENZ AG) 25 October 1984 (1984-10-25)		
A	EP 0 977 137 A (HITACHI LTD) 2 February 2000 (2000-02-02)		
A	FR 2 704 670 A (PARIENTI RAOUL; LAPREVOTTE JIM) 4 November 1994 (1994-11-04)		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7)
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			B62H G06K G07C
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 4 August 2004	Examiner Reekmans, M
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X: particularly relevant if taken alone Y: particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A: technological background O: non-written disclosure P: intermediate document</p> <p>T: theory or principle underlying the invention E: earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D: document cited in the application L: document cited for other reasons &: member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

EPO FORM 1503 03.82 (P04C01)

EP 1 462 349 A1

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 04 00 5604

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

04-08-2004

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
DE 2752954	A	31-05-1979	DE 2752954 A1	31-05-1979
US 5731957	A	24-03-1998	NONE	
DE 19607294	A	28-08-1997	DE 19607294 A1	28-08-1997
US 2002113491	A1	22-08-2002	US 6459426 B1	01-10-2002
NL 9101758	A	17-05-1993	NONE	
US 6246919	B1	12-06-2001	DE 29512330 U1	28-09-1995
			AT 205953 T	15-10-2001
			BR 9609851 A	16-03-1999
			WO 9705577 A1	13-02-1997
			DE 59607739 D1	25-10-2001
			EP 0958552 A1	24-11-1999
			ES 2164257 T3	16-02-2002
			JP 11509947 T	31-08-1999
			PT 958552 T	28-03-2002
DE 3313481	A	25-10-1984	DE 3313481 A1	25-10-1984
EP 0977137	A	02-02-2000	JP 2000048066 A	18-02-2000
			EP 0977137 A2	02-02-2000
			US 6321983 B1	27-11-2001
			US 2002030100 A1	14-03-2002
FR 2704670	A	04-11-1994	FR 2704670 A1	04-11-1994
			WO 9425936 A1	10-11-1994

EPO FORM P0453

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82